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Jerry Franklin, President & CEO of the Connecticut Public Broadcasting Network, Awarded Prestigious Silver Circle Award

HARTFORD, Conn. (October 16, 2013) – The Boston/New England Chapter of The National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences (NATAS) is awarding a Silver Circle award to Jerry Franklin, president & chief executive officer of the Connecticut Public Broadcasting Network (CPBN), parent company of Connecticut Public Television (CPTV) and WNPR/Connecticut Public Radio.

The Silver Circle is a special recognition that honors veteran television professionals who have made significant contributions to their community, the television industry and to individuals training for careers in the field of television. Candidates must have a minimum of 25 years of service in a technical, performing, creative or administrative role in television or in an associated activity directly related to television.

Franklin will be inducted into the Silver Circle at the 21st Silver Circle Ceremony held on Thursday, November 21 at the Seaport Hotel, in Boston, Massachusetts.

With 29 years of experience in mass media and broadcasting, Jerry Franklin has served as the president and CEO of the Connecticut Public Broadcasting Network since 1985. He oversees the state's only locally owned media organization producing television, radio, print and Internet content over a variety of media channels for distribution to Connecticut's wide-ranging and diverse communities. Production studios and corporate offices are headquartered in Hartford, with an additional radio studio based in New Haven.

CPBN broadcasts three digital television channels (Connecticut Public Television/CPTV; CPTV4U; CPTV Sports,) and five radio stations (WNPR/Connecticut Public Radio). CPTV and WNPR serve the entire state of Connecticut as well as areas of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and New York – reaching an estimated 450,000 television viewers and 276,000 radio listeners each week. In addition, CPBN includes a for-profit production company, MediaVision; a

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publishing partnership with *Connecticut Magazine*; a national satellite uplink service; and the newly opened Learning Lab, which houses the Journalism & Media Academy Magnet School satellite campus and the Veterans Vocational Training Program.

Franklin was one of the key players in bringing University of Connecticut women's basketball games to television. CPTV aired UConn Huskies games from 1994 through 2012, and during that time they became one of the highest-rated locally produced public television programs in the nation.

Franklin also has been instrumental in the growth of national programming at CPBN. Over the past 20 years, CPTV has become a nationally recognized producer and presenter of quality public television programming, such as the *Infinity Hall Live* concert series taped at Norfolk's Infinity Hall, as well as playing a historic role in bringing *Barney & Friends*™, *Bob the Builder*™ and *Thomas & Friends*™ to public television.

This fall, Franklin celebrated the opening of CPBN's Learning Lab, a first-of-its-kind educational initiative utilizing a \$3.5 million investment in equipment and technology infrastructure to educate students and adults. The Learning Lab houses the Journalism & Media Academy Magnet School satellite campus where the school's senior class spends a year developing their capstone and media portfolios in journalism and digital media. In the evenings, the Learning Lab provides relevant workforce development programs for military veterans building new career skills in digital media applications, such as video production, computer game design and web development.

Franklin commented on the Silver Circle honor. "Over the past 28 years, I've had the pleasure of working with countless staff members, board members, colleagues and generous supporters of

the Connecticut Public Broadcasting Network who have helped me realize our vision of creating a diverse media company that provides important and relevant content to the people of Connecticut. This wonderful honor is a reflection of their hard work and dedication.”

Under Franklin's leadership, CPTV has won two National Daytime Emmy Awards, 98 Regional Emmy Awards, 392 Regional Emmy Award nominations, seven CINE Golden Eagle Awards and one Gracie Allen Award. WNPR has earned two George Foster Peabody Awards, five Ohio State Awards, two Gracie Allen Awards, and more than 60 Associated Press Awards, including eight Mark Twain Awards for Overall Station Excellence.

Prior to joining Connecticut Public Broadcasting, Inc., Franklin served as general manager of WGBY-TV for the WGBH Educational Foundation in Boston, Massachusetts.

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About Connecticut Public Broadcasting Network

The Connecticut Public Broadcasting Network (CPBN) includes CPTV and WNPR. CPTV, a media service of CPBN, is a locally and nationally recognized producer and presenter of quality public television programming, including original documentaries, public affairs shows and educational programming. CPTV has built a reputation as a leader in children's programming, including playing an historic role in bringing *Barney & Friends*™, *Bob the Builder*™ and *Thomas & Friends*™ to public television. The station offers 11.5 hours of positive, nurturing children's programs each weekday, reaching 450,000 households each week. The Connecticut Public Broadcasting Network also includes WNPR, an affiliate of National Public Radio, Public Radio International and American Public Media. WNPR serves 276,000 listeners weekly in Connecticut, New York and Rhode Island with news and information. Its award-winning local programming includes *The Faith Middleton Show*, *The Colin McEnroe Show* and *Where We Live*. CPBN also includes two affiliate channels: CPTV4U, a 24/7 television channel featuring award-winning drama, news and talk programming, concert performances, independent films, nature shows, British comedy and more; and CPTV Sports, Connecticut's only 24-hour local sports network, covering statewide high school, college, semi-professional and professional sports. CPBN also houses the Learning Lab, home to the Journalism & Media Academy Magnet School satellite campus and the Veterans Vocational Training Program. For more information, visit cpbn.org.

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